

## Encorafenib and binimetinib

Encorafenib and binimetinib are targeted (biological) therapies. This group of drugs blocks the growth and spread of cancer. They target and interfere with processes in the cells that cause cancer to grow. Your doctor will explain this treatment to you and its side effects. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you have about your treatment.

### Your treatment

Your doctor or nurse clinician has prescribed for you a targeted therapy called encorafenib and binimetinib. The treatment is suitable for patients with a specific mutation in their cancer. These drugs are taken in combination. You should continue to take the medication without interruption unless advised by your doctor or if you develop any symptoms whilst taking them. Your doctor will monitor your progress regularly while you are on this medication.

- The medications should be swallowed whole with a full glass of water. They may be taken with or without food.
- **The encorafenib is to be taken once daily in the morning.**  
If you forget to take your encorafenib you may take it when you remember as long as it is not less than **12 hours** before your next dose of encorafenib.
- **The binimetinib is to be taken twice daily as close to 12 hours apart as possible.**  
If you forget to take your binimetinib you may take it when you remember as long as it is not less than **6 hours** before your next dose of binimetinib.
- If you experience an episode of vomiting after administration of the tablets, it is advised that you **do not** take an additional dose and should take the next scheduled dose.

Grapefruit and grapefruit juice can interact with encorafenib and should be avoided.

You will need to have regular blood tests while taking this medication.

This treatment can have serious or possibly life-threatening side effects. It is very important that you report side effects straight away. Don't delay, if you feel unwell, please ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. The lines are open 24 hours a day.

Please tell your doctor if you have:

- liver or kidney problems
- diabetes
- eye problems
- or if you are taking any other medications (see page 4)



## Possible side effects

Some side effects are more likely to occur than others. We are all different so we may get different side effects with varying severity. Some side effects are serious and potentially life-threatening. It is important to tell your treating team about any side effects so they can be monitored and treated. Most are temporary and can be managed. Below is a list of possible side effects that can occur. This is a guide only and not an exhaustive list.

## Common side effects (more than 1 in 10)

### • Vision changes

The drugs can cause uveitis which is inflammation of part of the eye. Please contact The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** immediately if you develop blurred vision, eye pain, swelling or redness.

### • Cardiac changes – left ventricular dysfunction (Warning!)

Contact The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** if any of the following symptoms occur:

- rapid, irregular heart rate
- swelling of legs, ankles and feet
- shortness of breath
- fatigue or changes in energy
- reduced ability to exercise
- persistent cough or wheeze
- dizziness or fainting
- chest pain

### • Raised blood pressure

Raised blood pressure or worsening of pre-existing high blood pressure may occur whilst on these tablets. Please inform your medical team if you suffer from hypertension or if you are on any blood pressure medications. Your blood pressure will be monitored at each appointment. Contact your GP or The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** immediately if you get severe headache, feel dizzy, lightheaded or if your blood pressure measured at home is much higher than usual.

### • Haemorrhage (Warning!)

Please report any episodes of unexplained bleeding. Contact The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** if any of the following occur:

- blood in stools, which may also present as stools that look like tar
- vomiting blood
- vaginal bleeding that is heavier than your normal period, bleeding in between periods or post-menopausal bleeding

### • Skin changes

Encorafenib and binimetinib can cause changes to your skin. These include:

- a rash
- thickening of the palms of the hands and soles of the feet; this may be associated with a tingling sensation
- new lesions that look like warts (papilloma) or changes in old moles.

### • Squamous cell carcinomas

This treatment may cause a type of skin cancer called squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). These cancers are generally not serious and do not usually spread to other parts of the body. During treatment we will monitor your skin for SCC. You should also check your skin and if you develop anything of concern, please make sure you inform your treating doctor. Look out for lesions that look like a new wart or a reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal. In some circumstances, these skin cancers need to be removed. Your doctor may refer you to a skin specialist or dermatologist if necessary.

- **Painful and stiff joints**

This treatment can be associated with muscle and joint aches and pains. It can cause arthralgia (joint pain), back pain and pain in hands and feet. You may need painkillers to help with this. For mild pain you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen. In some cases your doctor may need to prescribe strong painkillers.

- **Constipation**

This can occur during treatment. It is important you contact your medical team for support and advice on managing this with possible medications or dietary advice. You should contact your doctor or The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** if you have associated pain, fever and dark or red stools.

- **Diarrhoea**

Diarrhoea can occur with this treatment. It is therefore important to remain well hydrated by drinking water. If you are having more than 4 episodes of diarrhoea per day, have any signs of blood in the stool, are becoming dehydrated or have associated abdominal pains you should contact your doctor or The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. There is a potential this diarrhoea is a sign of colitis which is inflammation of the bowel.

- **Nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite**

If you experience nausea or vomiting, anti-sickness medication can be given to prevent this. Please inform your doctor or The Christie Hotline if these symptoms don't improve with anti-sickness treatment.

If you lose your appetite, try eating small meals. If you are losing weight you might need to see a dietitian or ask your medical team for further advice. Ask the staff for a copy of 'Eating: help yourself' which has useful ideas about diet when you are having treatment.

- **Headaches and dizziness**

Headaches and dizziness can occur on this medication and can be managed with painkillers and monitoring. Please contact The Christie Hotline if you experience severe episodes as there can be other causes of headaches that needs to be considered.

- **Feeling tired (fatigue)**

Feeling fatigued is a common side effect. You may need to limit your activities to help with this. Do what you feel capable of and take plenty of rest if you need to.

- **Anaemia (low number of red blood cells)**

While having this treatment, you may become anaemic. This may make you feel tired and breathless. If these symptoms occur, please inform your doctor or nurse at your appointment. You may require a blood transfusion. Regular blood tests will be carried out during treatment to observe any changes.

- **Hypersensitivity**

You may feel a higher level of sensitivity to physical stimuli, such as sound, sight, touch or smell. If this becomes problematic, please make your doctor or nurse aware at your next appointment.

- **Kidney and liver changes**

On occasions, this treatment may cause changes in your kidney and liver function. It is often detected throughout routine blood tests carried out as part of your assessment and consultations with your medical team during hospital visits on treatment. If detected, this can be managed appropriately with medications or intravenous fluids.

- **Fever**

Fever is a side effect with encorafenib and binimetinib. Fever is defined as a temperature of more than 38.5°C. You should have a digital thermometer available at home and check your temperature if you feel unwell. Symptoms of fever include shivering, sweats and feeling hot or flushed. If you develop a fever you should contact The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** so the doctor treating you can be informed.

## **Uncommon side effects (less than 1 in 10)**

- **Facial paresis**

In rare cases, this medication can cause facial paralysis due to nerve damage. Please inform us urgently if you have concerns you are experiencing this.

- **Pancreatitis**

These medications can rarely cause inflammation of the pancreas. Please report any severe abdominal pains especially if associated with nausea, vomiting or fever.

- **Rhabdomyolysis**

Rhabdomyolysis is breakdown of the muscles. Please report any muscle weakness, soreness or bruising. There may also be associated fever.

## **Serious and potentially life-threatening side effects**

In a small proportion of patients, this treatment can result in very severe side effects which may rarely result in death. The team caring for you will discuss the risk of these side effects with you.

### **If you are taking any other medications:**

This treatment can interact with other medications. It is important to let your doctor or pharmacist know if you are on any medications for other conditions or if there are any changes to your medication. Common types of medications which might react with encorafenib and binimetinib are:

- Antibiotics such as rifampicin, clarithromycin, erythromycin
- Anti-fungals such as ketoconazole, fluconazole and itraconazole
- Cardiac medications such as amiodarone, diltiazem and verapamil
- Anti-seizure medications such as carbamazepine, phenobarbitone and phenytoin
- Drugs taken after a transplant such as cyclosporin
- Hormones such as oestrogens and progesterones
- St John's Wort and other herbal medication
- Drugs to reduce stomach acid

- **Diet**

You do not need to be on a special diet whilst having this treatment. However, grapefruit and grapefruit juice can interact with your medication and should be avoided.

## **Sex, contraception and fertility**

We recommend that you or your partner use a condom during sexual intercourse while receiving treatment and for one month after. It is still possible to become pregnant or father a child while on this treatment. Pregnancy should be avoided as it is unknown whether this treatment is harmful to the unborn baby. Hormonal contraception may not work as well in women taking these medications. Do not breast feed during treatment with encorafenib and binimetinib.

These medications may damage sperm and cause sterility in men. If you plan to have children please discuss this with your doctor before commencing treatment.

## Late side effects

The long term possible side effects of treatment with encorafenib and binimetinib are not yet known. Please speak to your doctor if you wish to discuss this further.

## Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please ring:

Jackie Hodgetts (Melanoma clinical nurse specialist) - **0161 446 3868**

General enquires on - **0161 446 3000**

For urgent advice ring The Christie Hotline **0161 446 3658** (24 hours)

Your consultant is: .....

Your hospital number is: .....

Your key worker is: .....

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For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for  
urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week